

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12-18, 21, 22 and 26-31 under section 102(e) based on Tiedemann et al (US 6,108,372), and allowed claims 3-5, 11, 19, 20 and 23-25.

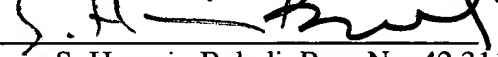
Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 22, and 29, by incorporating the limitation of at least one of the allowed claims, and cancel without prejudice claims 2, 3, 19, and 23. As such, the claims 1, 4-18, 20-22, and 24-31 are in a condition for allowance. Applicants request review of the amended claims, and allowance of the application.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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